



NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Metadata Monthly

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NGA/DCGS Metadata Harmonization

The *DoD Net-Centric Data Strategy*, published in May of 2003, defines DoD's goals and approaches to enable users and systems to find and access data throughout the DoD enterprise. Metadata – data about data – is a key enabler to achieving these goals. It enables users and systems to discover, retrieve and understand data that is stored throughout the enterprise. Metadata must have, among all users in the enterprise, a common and agreed to meaning, or semantic, in order to optimize search results and reduce the effort required to find data. Achieving a common and agreed to meaning is the outcome of metadata harmonization.

NGA has a strong leadership role in the Distributed Common Ground/Surface System (DCGS)/Functional Manager metadata harmonization process and has paved the way for the other functional managers to harmonize non-Geospatial metadata with DCGS. NGA is the leader of the NGA/DCGS Metadata Harmonization Team, which is comprised of NGA, NGA System Engineering and System Integration contractors, and representatives from each the four Services. This Team is working to harmonize metadata and achieve the vision embodied in the Net-Centric Data Strategy (NCDS).

In order to improve a community understanding of key metadata concepts, the NGA/DCGS Metadata Harmonization Team publishes a newsletter entitled: *Metadata Monthly*. Published since October 2007, *Metadata Monthly* has included articles on topics such as metadata harmonization, the DoD Metadata Registry, and Metadata and Acquisition. Anyone interested in learning more about metadata and NGA's metadata harmonization efforts is encouraged to read *Metadata Monthly*. The NGA POC for *Metadata Monthly* is Capt. Luciana Augustine, NGA/TETN (Luciana.L.Augustine@nga.mil; 571-558-3885).

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